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Permanent and temporary immigration to Canada from 2012 to 2014

by Laurent Martel and Carol D'Aoust

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... not applicable
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0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
^{p} preliminary
^{r} revised
x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
^{E} use with caution
F too unreliable to be published
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

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Permanent and temporary immigration to Canada from 2012 to 2014

By Laurent Martel and Carol D'Aoust, Demography Division

Highlights

- Canada admitted 260,400 immigrants in 2014, one of the highest levels in more than 100 years.
- The highest immigration rates since 2008 were among the Western provinces (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia), also Prince Edward Island and Yukon, despite annual differences.
- For a continuous period of at least 70 years, Ontario, Canada's most populous province, has attracted the most immigrants annually, although the share has fallen over time.
- The majority of immigrants admitted to Canada in 2012, 2013 and 2014 were born in Asia, as has been the case for several decades.

Key statistics

Number of immigrants received:
2012: 257,905 immigrants
2013: 259,024 immigrants
2014: 260,411 immigrants

Immigration rate:
2012: 7.4 per thousand
2013: 7.4 per thousand
2014: 7.3 per thousand

Main countries of birth (2014):
1 – Philippines
2 – India
3 – China
4 – Islamic Republic of Iran
5 – Pakistan

2015 Immigration Plan target:
260,000 to 285,000 immigrants

Net change in non-permanent residents received:
2012: +48,000 people
2013: +54,000 people
2014: +24,700 people

Introduction

This article presents an analysis of the most recent trends in permanent and temporary immigration to Canada for the years 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Statistics on the number of permanent residents (or immigrants) admitted to Canada, immigration rate, category of admission, country of birth, province or territory of destination, age structure and sex, international adoption and the net change in the number of temporary residents (or non-permanent residents) are described successively and, when available and relevant, are placed in the context of historical and/or international trends.

Differences at the provincial and territorial level are also presented for select indicators.

Data on immigration to Canada come from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). The data in this article were extracted in September 2015. IRCC continuously updates its databases, which means that certain statistics presented in this article for a given year may differ slightly from those found in other documents for the same year.[1]

For more information on historical trends related to the statistics presented in this document, readers are encouraged to consult *Canadian Demographics at a Glance* (Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 91-003).

1. Such as IRCC's *Facts and Figures*.

Number of immigrants admitted

Canada admitted 257,900, 259,000 and 260,400 immigrants, in 2012, 2013 and 2014, respectively, in keeping with the framework set out in the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (IRPA) (Figure 1). These numbers fall within the range of the IRCC's Immigration Levels Plan, which was 240,000 to 265,000 immigrants for each year since 2007.

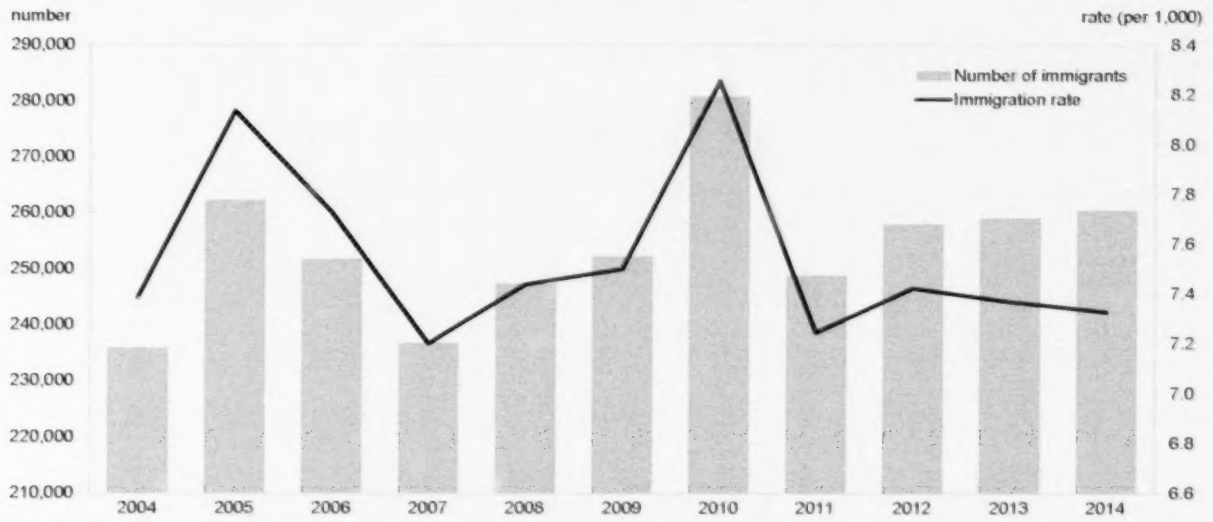
IRCC announced in its Immigration Levels Plan that the target range for permanent residents admitted to Canada for 2015 was increased to between 260,000 and 285,000 immigrants.

Immigration rate

The immigration rate is the ratio between the immigrants received in a given year in a given region to the total population of that region. Expressed per thousand, the rate makes it possible to compare regions of different demographic sizes.

The immigration rate was 7.4 per thousand in each of 2012 and 2013 and 7.3 per thousand in 2014 (Figure 1). These rates are relatively high when compared with those of other industrialized countries. They were lower in most European countries and in the United States, which had a rate of 3.1 per thousand in 2013. In contrast, Australia (10.9 per thousand in 2013) often has an immigration rate slightly higher than that of Canada.[2]

Figure 1. Immigration numbers and rates, Canada, 2004 to 2014



Note: Data available as of September 2015.
Sources: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and Statistics Canada, Demography Division, Demographic Estimates Program.

2. Source: OECD Stat.

Provincial/territorial variation

Despite annual differences, on average from 2012 to 2014, Manitoba (11.2 per thousand), Saskatchewan (10.2 per thousand), Alberta (9.6 per thousand), Prince Edward Island (8.5 per thousand), Yukon (8.2 per thousand) and British Columbia (7.8 per thousand) have had the highest immigration rates among the provinces and territories. This is a new trend compared with the situation a decade ago when Ontario had the highest rate: the immigration rate has been declining in Ontario since the mid-2000s (11.2 per thousand in 2005 compared with 7.0 per thousand in 2014).

Ontario (7.3 per thousand) and Quebec (6.4 per thousand) were among the other Canadian provinces and territories with an immigration rate close to the national rate (7.4 per thousand), on average, from 2012 to 2014.

The Northwest Territories (3.7 per thousand), New Brunswick (3.1 per thousand), Nova Scotia (2.7 per thousand), Newfoundland and Labrador (1.6 per thousand) and Nunavut (0.5 per thousand) had the lowest immigration rates, on average, during the period from 2012 to 2014.

Destination of immigrants

The province or territory of destination of immigrants analyzed in this article refers to the planned province or territory of destination of individuals migrating to Canada before their migration. The actual location where immigrants settle may differ since immigrants may migrate again within Canada shortly after their arrival.

In the last decade, the number and proportion of immigrants admitted to Canada who settled in Ontario and British Columbia have declined overall in favour mainly of the Western provinces, such as Alberta and Saskatchewan, and to a lesser degree, Manitoba and Quebec (Table 1).

Table 1. Number and percentage distribution of immigrants by region of destination, Canada, provinces and territories, 2004 to 2014

Year	Canada	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Y.T.	N.W.T.	Nvt.
							number							
2004	235,822	579	310	1,771	795	44,245	125,092	7,426	1,943	16,476	37,026	62	89	8
2005	262,243	497	330	1,929	1,091	43,316	140,528	8,096	2,119	19,405	44,771	65	84	12
2006	251,640	508	565	2,586	1,646	44,684	125,899	10,049	2,724	20,717	42,087	65	98	12
2007	236,753	546	992	2,524	1,643	45,210	111,340	10,956	3,517	20,865	38,970	83	88	19
2008	247,244	627	1,454	2,652	1,856	45,205	110,899	11,220	4,836	24,206	44,001	110	127	50
2009	252,170	606	1,759	2,388	1,913	49,488	106,858	13,521	6,890	27,017	41,440	173	107	10
2010	280,686	714	2,593	2,395	2,125	53,982	118,111	15,808	7,615	32,650	44,186	350	137	19
2011	248,747	685	1,738	2,136	1,967	51,740	99,466	15,963	8,956	30,963	34,788	237	85	24
2012	257,905	733	1,105	2,342	2,213	55,050	99,160	13,313	11,180	36,100	36,244	279	166	20
2013	259,024	835	1,000	2,527	2,019	51,977	103,553	13,103	10,680	36,640	36,212	316	150	11
2014	260,411	901	1,628	2,668	2,838	50,292	95,828	16,225	11,826	42,536	35,174	305	167	23
							percent							
2004	100.0	0.2	0.1	0.8	0.3	18.8	53.0	3.1	0.8	7.0	15.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
2005	100.0	0.2	0.1	0.7	0.4	16.5	53.6	3.1	0.8	7.4	17.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
2006	100.0	0.2	0.2	1.0	0.7	17.8	50.0	4.0	1.1	8.2	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
2007	100.0	0.2	0.4	1.1	0.7	19.1	47.0	4.6	1.5	8.8	16.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
2008	100.0	0.3	0.6	1.1	0.8	18.3	44.9	4.5	2.0	9.8	17.8	0.0	0.1	0.0
2009	100.0	0.2	0.7	0.9	0.8	19.6	42.4	5.4	2.7	10.7	16.4	0.1	0.0	0.0
2010	100.0	0.3	0.9	0.9	0.8	19.2	42.1	5.6	2.7	11.6	15.7	0.1	0.0	0.0
2011	100.0	0.3	0.7	0.9	0.8	20.8	40.0	6.4	3.6	12.4	14.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
2012	100.0	0.3	0.4	0.9	0.9	21.3	38.4	5.2	4.3	14.0	14.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
2013	100.0	0.3	0.4	1.0	0.8	20.1	40.0	5.1	4.1	14.1	14.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
2014	100.0	0.3	0.6	1.0	1.1	19.3	36.8	6.2	4.5	16.3	13.5	0.1	0.1	0.0

Notes: Data available as of September 2015. Immigrants for which the region was unknown were prorated using the observed distribution.
Source: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

For a continuous period of at least 70 years, Ontario, Canada's most populous province, has attracted the most immigrants annually: in 2012, 2013 and 2014, 99,200 immigrants, 103,600 immigrants and 95,800 immigrants, respectively, settled there.

In the past 26 years, the number of immigrants admitted to Ontario has fallen below the 100,000 mark only four times (in 1998, 2011, 2012 and 2014). The numbers for the last three years are consistent with an overall downward trend over the past decade, since Ontario admitted more than 140,000 immigrants in 2005.

Consequently, the share of immigrants going to Ontario has declined in recent years from 59.3% in 2001 to 36.8% in 2014. The proportion in 2014 was the lowest observed in more than 70 years.

With 55,000 immigrants, 52,000 immigrants and 50,300 immigrants admitted in 2012, 2013 and 2014, respectively, Quebec ranked second in terms of the number of immigrants received. In the past 40 years, Quebec has often traded second place with British Columbia, which admitted 36,200 new arrivals in each of 2012 and 2013 and 35,200 immigrants in 2014.

Since 2009, one in five immigrants (20.0%) admitted to Canada has settled in Quebec, a proportion generally on the rise since the mid-1990s (12.5% in 1994).

In 2014, British Columbia attracted 13.5% of immigrants to Canada, the lowest level observed in the past 25 years. For the first time since 1954, Alberta attracted more immigrants in 2013 (14.1%) and 2014 (16.3%) than British Columbia (14.0% and 13.5%, respectively). For Alberta, this proportion has almost tripled from the level observed in the mid-1990s (5.9% in 1997).

Although Saskatchewan attracts fewer immigrants than Canada's most populous provinces, the number has still grown substantially in recent years, totalling 11,800 people in 2014 or 4.5% of all immigrants to Canada. In the early 2000s, Saskatchewan attracted less than 1.0% of all immigrants admitted.

Manitoba and Prince Edward Island have also seen an upward trend in recent years. In 2014, 6.2% of immigrants settled in Manitoba, compared with 1.7% in 1998. For Prince Edward Island, these proportions were 0.6% and 0.1%, respectively.

Categories of admission

The *IRPA* of IRCC defines three main categories of admission for immigrants to Canada: economic, family reunification and refugees. In addition to these three categories, there is another—other immigrants—which includes, for example, other humanitarian cases, although very few immigrants are admitted in this category.

The economic category includes several programs and sub-categories, notably the skilled workers program, economic programs, the Canadian experience category, investors, provincial candidates, live-in caregivers and dependents of the applicant.

Since 1994, the number of immigrants admitted under the economic category has exceeded that of the other categories. Since 2008, it has accounted for at least 60% of all immigrants admitted to the country, except in 2013, where it was at 57.2%. Since 2012, an average of 158,000 people have been admitted annually under the economic category of Canada's immigration policy, representing 61.0% of all immigrants admitted during these years (Table 2).

The purpose of the family category of Canada's immigration policy is to reunite families. This category includes married spouses, common-law partners, dependent children, parents or grandparents and other immediate family members of a permanent resident.

Before 1994, the family category was frequently the most common category of admission of Canadian immigrants. Since 2012, 70,100 people on average, or 27.0% of all immigrants, have been admitted annually under this category of the immigration policy.

Table 2. Number and percentage distribution of immigrants by region of destination and class, Canada, provinces and territories, 2012 to 2014

Category	Year	Canada	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Y.T.	N.W.T.	Nvt.
		number													
Total	2012	257,905	733	1,105	2,342	2,213	55,049	99,161	13,313	11,180	36,100	36,244	279	166	20
	2013	259,024	835	1,000	2,527	2,019	51,977	103,553	13,103	10,680	36,640	36,212	316	150	11
	2014	260,411	901	1,628	2,668	2,838	50,292	95,831	16,224	11,826	42,535	35,172	305	167	23
Economic	2012	160,829	507	965	1,624	1,799	39,632	49,185	10,337	9,736	24,580	22,115	242	98	9
	2013	148,190	555	832	1,680	1,529	34,812	47,628	9,602	8,812	22,648	19,736	266	86	—
	2014	165,116	608	1,502	1,952	2,377	33,431	50,898	12,850	9,891	29,601	21,629	252	112	12
Family reunification	2012	65,018	117	75	468	238	9,188	31,979	1,739	827	8,437	11,855	34	52	8
	2013	79,698	136	116	591	304	11,528	39,180	1,937	1,219	10,422	14,167	44	47	7
	2014	65,451	116	62	446	233	10,888	29,974	1,822	1,224	9,176	11,402	49	48	10
Refugees	2012	31,987	109	65	250	176	6,219	17,953	1,235	615	3,073	2,270	—	16	—
	2013	31,082	144	52	256	186	5,630	16,713	1,562	649	3,559	2,306	6	17	—
	2014	29,812	176	64	270	228	5,971	14,948	1,549	711	3,747	2,135	—	7	—
		percent													
Total	2012	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	2013	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	2014	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Economic	2012	62.4	69.2	87.3	69.3	81.3	72.0	49.6	77.6	87.1	68.1	61.0	86.7	59.0	45.0
	2013	57.2	66.5	83.2	66.5	75.7	67.0	46.0	73.3	82.5	61.8	54.5	84.2	57.3	—
	2014	63.4	67.5	92.3	73.2	83.8	66.5	53.1	79.2	83.6	69.6	61.5	82.6	67.1	52.2
Family reunification	2012	25.2	16.0	6.8	20.0	10.8	16.7	32.2	13.1	7.4	23.4	32.7	12.2	31.3	40.0
	2013	30.8	16.3	11.6	23.4	15.1	22.2	37.8	14.8	11.4	28.4	39.1	13.9	31.3	63.6
	2014	25.1	12.9	3.8	16.7	8.2	21.6	31.3	11.2	10.4	21.6	32.4	16.1	28.7	43.5
Refugees	2012	12.4	14.9	5.9	10.7	8.0	11.3	18.1	9.3	5.5	8.5	6.3	—	9.6	—
	2013	12.0	17.2	5.2	10.1	9.2	10.8	16.1	11.9	6.1	9.7	6.4	1.9	11.3	—
	2014	11.4	19.5	3.9	10.1	8.0	11.9	15.6	9.5	6.0	8.8	6.1	—	4.2	—

Notes: Data available as of September 2015. Due to privacy considerations, some cells in the table have been suppressed and replaced with the notation "—". As a result, components may not sum to the total indicated. In general, we have suppressed cells containing less than five cases. A small number of immigrants in other categories of admission are not shown in this table.

Source: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

The refugee category of Canada's immigration policy encompasses refugees admitted to Canada, refugees sponsored by the government or the private sector, and their dependents.

Since 1981, this category has accounted for less than 20% of Canadian immigration. Since 2012, the number of immigrants admitted under this category has been 31,000 people, on average, or 11.9% of all immigrants received.

Provincial/territorial variation

In recent years (2012 to 2014), about four in five immigrants admitted to Prince Edward Island (88.4%), Yukon and Saskatchewan (84.4% each) and New Brunswick (80.7%) were admitted under the economic category of the *IRPA*.

In comparison, this proportion was only 49.5% in Ontario, which stood out more for its high proportion of immigrants (33.9%) admitted under the family category of the *IRPA*. The situation is similar in British Columbia (34.8%), the Northwest Territories (30.4%) and Nunavut (46.3%).

Lastly, Ontario welcomed the largest number of refugees during this period, 53.4% of all refugees admitted to Canada. These refugees represented 16.6% of all immigrants to Ontario, the second largest proportion among all provinces and territories after Newfoundland and Labrador (17.4%).

Country of birth of immigrants

This section of the article analyzes the country of birth of immigrants.[3]

The majority of immigrants admitted to Canada from 2012 to 2014 (around 60%) were born in Asia, having been the case for several decades. Africa and Europe follow with 13.7% and 11.9%, respectively, of immigrants recently arrived in Canada (Table 3).

China and India have both been among the top five countries of birth of immigrants to Canada since 1980, with only a few exceptions (1986 and 1989 for China and 1990 for India). In 2014, 64.3% of immigrants born in China were admitted under the economic category of the immigration policy and 31.6% were in the family category. For India, 69.6% were admitted under the economic category and 28.5% under the family category.

Table 3. Number and percentage distribution of immigrants by category according to the 10 main countries of birth, Canada, 2012, 2013 and 2014

Year and country of birth	Economic		Family reunification		Refugees		Total	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
2012								
China	20,998	60.4	12,043	34.6	1,730	5.0	34,771	100.0
Philippines	28,371	83.0	5,496	16.1	295	0.9	34,169	100.0
India	18,923	61.8	11,054	36.1	662	2.2	30,642	100.0
Pakistan	6,738	63.3	3,052	28.7	853	8.0	10,647	100.0
Islamic Republic of Iran	5,704	75.8	949	12.6	871	11.6	7,524	100.0
United States	3,070	42.1	2,983	40.9	1,242	17.0	7,297	100.0
France	5,287	89.7	523	8.9	83	1.4	5,895	100.0
Haiti	2,769	47.0	872	14.8	2,248	38.2	5,891	100.0
South Korea[1]	4,307	81.1	832	15.7	170	3.2	5,311	100.0
United Kingdom[2]	3,727	71.1	1,358	25.9	152	2.9	5,242	100.0
2013								
China	17,252	48.1	17,162	47.9	1,415	3.9	35,831	100.0
India	19,384	59.0	12,895	39.3	538	1.6	32,828	100.0
Philippines	23,995	81.8	5,166	17.6	186	0.6	29,347	100.0
Pakistan	8,691	72.0	2,285	18.9	1,092	9.0	12,070	100.0
Islamic Republic of Iran	7,723	68.7	2,496	22.2	1,015	9.0	11,234	100.0
United States	2,998	39.7	3,475	46.1	1,066	14.1	7,546	100.0
France	4,435	85.0	688	13.2	91	1.7	5,218	100.0
United Kingdom[2]	3,099	63.9	1,621	33.4	130	2.7	4,851	100.0
Iraq	1,082	22.8	234	4.9	3,423	72.2	4,739	100.0
South Korea[1]	3,635	80.7	767	17.0	105	2.3	4,507	100.0
2014								
Philippines	34,521	86.6	5,128	12.9	200	0.5	39,851	100.0
India	26,707	69.6	10,949	28.5	706	1.8	38,364	100.0
China	16,749	64.3	8,239	31.6	1,062	4.1	26,051	100.0
Islamic Republic of Iran	13,349	79.8	1,903	11.4	1,477	8.8	16,729	100.0
Pakistan	5,465	63.9	1,925	22.5	1,164	13.6	8,558	100.0
United States	3,614	47.9	3,087	40.9	841	11.1	7,544	100.0
United Kingdom[2]	3,594	71.7	1,304	26.0	114	2.3	5,012	100.0
South Korea[1]	3,656	81.4	732	16.3	102	2.3	4,490	100.0
Mexico	1,902	42.8	1,382	31.1	1,154	26.0	4,440	100.0
France	3,691	83.8	647	14.7	69	1.6	4,407	100.0

1. The official name of South Korea is Republic of Korea.
2. The official name of United Kingdom is United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Notes: Data available as of September 2015. A small number of immigrants in other categories of admission are not shown in this table. In addition to the country of birth, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada also collects data on the country of last permanent residence of immigrants.

Source: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

3. It should be noted that the country of birth is different from the country of origin, which is analyzed in the *Facts and Figures* publication from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. Country of origin corresponds to the country of last permanent residence.

The Philippines have systematically been among the five main countries of birth of immigrants to Canada for almost 30 years, except in 1997 when it ranked sixth. In recent years, a significant proportion of immigrants born in the Philippines were admitted under the economic category of the immigration policy: from 2012 to 2014, on average, this percentage was 84.1%.

China, India and the Philippines together have accounted for more than one-third of all immigrants admitted to Canada over the past 23 years.

Pakistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, South Korea,[4] the United States and the United Kingdom[5] have also been among the top 10 countries of birth of immigrants to Canada for several years. However, immigration from Sri Lanka, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Taiwan and Poland—countries often represented among the top 10 in the 1980s and 1990s—has declined recently.

Among the other main countries of birth of immigrants to Canada, it is interesting to note two European countries, namely, France and the United Kingdom. In 2014, Quebec was the destination of 79.9% of immigrants from France, while Ontario received 35.1% of immigrants from the United Kingdom. The vast majority (77.3%) of immigrants from these two countries were admitted under the economic category of the immigration policy.

Lastly, Algeria, Nigeria, Egypt, Morocco and Cameroon are some of the main recent countries of birth of immigrants from Africa to Canada.

Provincial/territorial variation

Overall, from 2012 to 2014, the proportion of immigrants born on the Asian continent (on average around 60% of immigrants) was higher in Prince Edward Island (80.4%), Saskatchewan (76.2%), British Columbia (74.2%) and Yukon (73.6%), followed by Manitoba (67.9%), Ontario (67.3%), Alberta (67.0%), the Northwest Territories (66.0%) and New Brunswick (65.7%). It was lower in Nova Scotia (54.3%), Newfoundland and Labrador (51.2%), Nunavut (50.0%) and Quebec (27.2%).

Between 14% and 32% of immigrants admitted to Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories were born in Europe during the period from 2012 to 2014, higher than the national percentage (13.7%).

Also for the 2012 to 2014 period, Quebec stands out on account of a significantly higher proportion of immigrants than the national percentage born in: Northwest Africa (Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, Libya[6] and Tunisia) (15.5% versus 3.5%), South and Central America, and the Caribbean and Bermuda (21.5% versus 13.0%), mainly from Haiti (7.0% versus 1.7%).

Composition by age and sex of immigrants

From 2012 to 2014, just over half of the immigrants admitted to Canada were women (51.7% on average) (Figure 2).

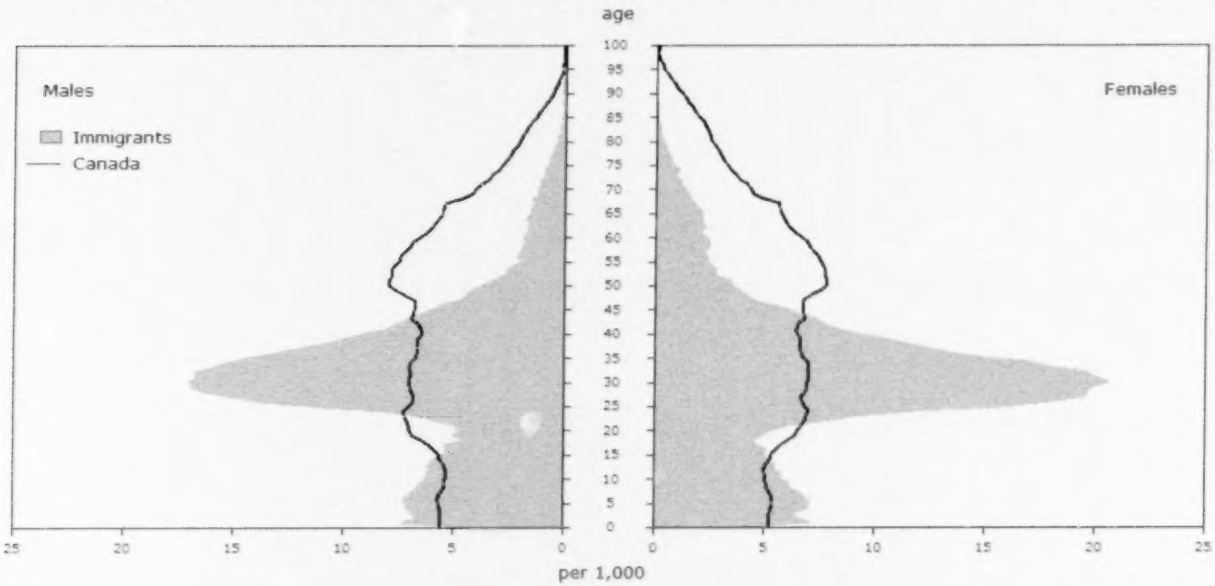
This proportion varies, however, by the category of immigrants: although women account for about half of the immigrants admitted in the economic immigration category (49.4% from 2012 to 2014) and in the refugee category (50.0% for the same period), they represent a much larger proportion of the family reunification category (57.6% from 2012 to 2014).

More than half (51.2%) of all immigrants admitted to Canada from 2012 to 2014 were between the ages of 25 and 44. Almost one in five immigrants was a child between 0 and 14 years (19.2%), 12.1% were aged 15 to 24, 12.8% between 45 and 64 years, and only 4.8% were 65 years or older.

Moreover, the immigrant population is on average younger than the Canadian population overall. For the period from 2012 to 2014, immigrants had a median age of 30.9 years, which was almost 10 years younger than the median age for all Canadians (40.5 years). Despite these differences, immigration alone cannot solve Canada's inevitable population aging in the coming decades, notably as generations from the baby-boom era born between 1946 and 1965 reach age 65.

4. The official name of South Korea is Republic of Korea.
5. The official name of United Kingdom is United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
6. The official name of Libya is Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Figure 2. Age pyramid of the immigrant and Canadian population (immigrants included), Canada, 2014



Note: Data available as of September 2015. Persons aged 100 and over are included at age 100.
Sources: Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and Statistics Canada, Demography Division, Demographic Estimates Program.

International adoption

International adoption often involves long wait times between the administrative formalities and the availability of a child for adoption, but it still gives individuals or couples the opportunity to create a family or add one or more children to their existing family. Regulations may vary depending on the province or territory and can evolve over the years not only in Canada, but in any given country of origin. Overall, international adoptions account for a small percentage of the immigrants arriving in Canada each year. In addition, a new process introduced in 2008 allows children adopted abroad to enter Canada either by way of the traditional immigration channels, or under the new process to be granted Canadian citizenship as soon as they arrive in the country. Recently, the majority of these adoptions have taken place under the citizenship process.

The number of international adoptions has fallen in recent years from 2,100 in 2009 to 1,000 in 2014.

Close to one in five children adopted in Canada were born in China (18.7% on average) for the 2012 to 2014 period, which represents a decline from the 52.0% peak in 2005. Other important countries of adoption include the United States (12.0%), the Philippines (7.2%), Ethiopia (5.3%), Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (4.9%), Russian Federation (4.4%), South Korea[7] (4.1%), Haiti (3.6%), India (3.5%) and Columbia (2.6%). Together, these 10 countries of birth account for two-thirds of all children adopted in Canada.

7. The official name of South Korea is Republic of Korea.

Temporary immigration (non-permanent residents)

This section analyzes recent trends for non-permanent or temporary residents. Temporary residents are foreigners who are legally in Canada on a temporary basis on account of a valid document (for example, work permit, study permit or temporary resident permit) issued to individuals so that they can enter Canada. This group includes people who seek asylum when they arrive in Canada or afterwards and who remain in the country while waiting for the decision once their application is processed.

The net number of non-permanent residents (difference between persons with non-permanent resident status entering and leaving Canada) can fluctuate considerably from year to year since temporary immigration can, for example, be particularly sensitive to the economic climate or changes to the policies governing it.

The recent period is no exception even though, overall, the net number of non-permanent residents has tended to be high.

In 2014, the net number of non-permanent residents was +24,700 people; in 2013, this number was +54,000 people (Table 4).

The last time there was a negative net number, indicating a decrease in the population of non-permanent residents in Canada, was in 1996: -9,700 people. Between 1997 and 2014, the annual net number has fluctuated between +800 (1997) and +71,600 (2008).

As a result of the positive balance observed over the past 18 years, the estimated non-permanent resident population has increased substantially in Canada, from 234,400 people in 1997 to 770,600 in 2014.[8]

Provincial/territorial variation

The net number of non-permanent residents can fluctuate considerably in each province and territory from one year to the next. On account of their size, Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and Alberta often have large fluctuations and a significant impact on the national net numbers.

In Ontario, the net number of non-permanent residents has been declining since 2011, from +22,200 people in 2011 to +11,200 people in 2014. Nevertheless, the average has been relatively stable at about +16,000 people since 2008.

The fluctuation has been much greater in Alberta, increasing from -9,200 people in 2010 to +21,700 people in 2013, before declining again to -4,900 people in 2014. In 2013, the net number in this Prairie province was the highest observed since 2008 (+23,700 people) and the second highest since 1971. However, the negative balance in 2014 was the third lowest since 1972.

Saskatchewan recorded its first negative balance in eight years in 2014 (-400 people). The net number of non-permanent residents also rose recently in Manitoba (+1,300 people in 2014) and in British Columbia (+12,000 people in 2014). In Quebec, an average of +3,700 non-permanent residents has been recorded since 2010.

Table 4. Annual net non-permanent residents, Canada, provinces and territories, 2012 to 2014

Region	2012	2013	2014
	number		
Canada	47,967	54,027	24,669
N.L.	1,029	776	226
P.E.I.	344	-11	216
N.S.	1,014	-71	594
N.B.	443	208	105
Que.	4,761	1,745	4,300
Ont.	17,506	14,315	11,239
Man.	1,526	1,622	1,281
Sask.	2,824	2,419	-360
Alta.	10,388	21,675	-4,904
B.C.	8,080	11,324	12,045
Y.T.	26	-47	-20
N.W.T	30	74	-54
Nvt.	-4	-2	1

Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division, Population Estimates Program.

All of the Atlantic provinces had a positive net number of non-permanent residents in 2014, unlike in 2013, when Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia had negative balances.

As a result of these annual variations, the largest population of non-permanent residents in 2014 was in Ontario, with 307,200 people, representing 2.3% of the province's population.

Ontario was followed in order by British Columbia (175,300 people), Alberta (113,100 people) and Quebec (110,300 people). As a proportion of the size of the population, British Columbia had the highest proportion of non-permanent residents, representing 3.8% of the province's population, followed by Alberta (2.8%).

8. Estimates of the non-permanent resident population could be overestimated because of the difficulty to correctly define their departure date from Canada.

To learn more about immigration trends in Canada

Canadian Demographics at a Glance (**Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 91-003**).

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Facts and Figures 2014*.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *2014 Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration*.

Annual Demographic Estimates: Canada, Provinces and Territories (**Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 91-215**)

Table A1. Number of immigrants by continent and selected countries of birth, Canada, 2004 to 2014

Continent and country of birth	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
						number					
Europe	**41,508**	**40,093**	**37,403**	**37,983**	**38,367**	**38,855**	**37,401**	**29,691**	**31,969**	**30,672**	**30,148**
Bulgaria	2,049	1,747	1,434	1,187	1,024	810	581	379	454	534	455
France	4,043	4,077	3,696	4,026	4,257	4,821	4,454	3,899	5,895	5,218	4,407
Germany	1,723	1,924	2,222	2,007	2,998	3,162	2,587	1,922	1,663	1,220	1,285
Republic of Ireland	240	236	277	307	396	405	546	549	690	973	1,868
Republic of Moldova	705	732	882	1,167	1,177	1,620	2,138	1,431	1,532	1,321	1,054
Romania	5,817	5,070	4,499	3,864	2,852	2,096	1,947	1,772	1,604	1,553	1,566
Russian Federation	4,454	4,259	3,870	3,713	3,444	3,632	2,978	2,380	2,417	2,736	2,055
Turkey	1,739	2,033	1,610	1,428	1,128	1,229	1,497	1,265	1,065	742	740
Ukraine	3,027	2,963	2,516	2,717	2,521	2,838	3,563	2,816	2,627	2,891	2,864
United Kingdom[1]	5,352	5,196	5,928	7,317	8,199	8,078	7,636	5,180	5,234	4,836	4,992
Others	12,358	11,856	10,469	10,251	10,369	10,161	9,475	8,097	8,788	8,648	8,862
Africa	**27,565**	**26,766**	**28,546**	**27,788**	**28,999**	**33,378**	**38,719**	**33,774**	**36,972**	**37,008**	**32,663**
Algeria	3,579	3,630	4,806	3,619	3,977	5,371	4,735	4,309	3,773	4,306	3,649
Cameroon	433	585	688	992	1,232	1,291	1,771	1,610	2,498	2,457	2,103
Côte d'Ivoire	303	370	515	714	746	757	1,159	702	1,149	1,284	1,655
Egypt	2,180	2,220	1,886	2,185	2,972	3,170	5,287	4,152	5,119	3,757	2,837
Ethiopia	1,641	1,572	1,788	1,571	1,586	1,299	1,870	2,162	1,922	1,696	1,449
Morocco	3,723	2,968	3,340	4,024	4,231	5,524	6,239	4,372	3,903	3,265	2,486
Nigeria	1,514	2,196	2,546	2,358	2,065	3,052	3,746	2,999	3,364	4,025	4,088
Somalia	1,202	1,018	940	1,005	842	905	1,214	1,227	1,263	1,644	1,174
Sudan	1,651	1,264	999	708	698	437	611	578	508	442	771
The Democratic Republic of the Congo	1,442	1,478	1,587	1,473	1,329	1,504	1,150	1,206	1,629	1,820	1,583
Tunisia	754	736	1,038	862	909	1,160	1,261	1,393	1,475	1,620	1,438
Zimbabwe	1,508	667	476	711	670	563	560	482	501	448	386
Others	7,635	8,062	7,937	7,566	7,742	8,345	9,116	8,582	9,868	10,244	9,044
Asia	**135,585**	**160,373**	**149,961**	**133,854**	**141,205**	**142,109**	**164,731**	**147,450**	**151,703**	**155,400**	**162,330**
Afghanistan	2,704	2,975	2,629	2,174	1,839	1,569	1,552	1,915	2,371	1,731	1,363
Bangladesh	2,606	4,157	4,016	2,916	2,933	2,116	4,635	2,634	2,571	3,760	2,184
China	38,143	44,079	34,617	28,622	31,082	30,480	31,671	29,860	34,475	35,467	25,691
India	28,172	35,969	33,710	28,509	27,989	29,173	33,513	26,986	30,642	32,828	38,364
Iraq	1,706	2,097	1,725	2,350	3,406	5,375	5,776	6,016	3,836	4,739	3,807
Islamic Republic of Iran	6,494	5,967	7,594	7,196	6,578	6,643	7,546	7,526	7,524	11,234	16,729
Lebanon	3,215	3,577	3,664	3,328	3,363	2,947	3,254	2,901	1,539	2,058	2,175
Nepal	574	725	649	591	674	892	2,014	1,833	1,693	1,521	1,480
Pakistan	13,001	13,967	12,440	9,804	8,489	6,924	6,316	6,971	10,647	12,070	8,558
Philippines	13,900	18,032	18,319	19,721	24,693	28,414	38,301	36,485	34,169	29,347	39,851
Republic of Korea (South Korea)	5,359	5,800	6,204	5,914	7,295	5,860	5,524	4,617	5,311	4,507	4,490
Saudi Arabia	1,004	1,105	1,210	850	1,152	1,029	1,588	1,331	1,260	1,297	1,121
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam	1,982	2,014	3,323	2,728	2,016	2,301	2,047	1,805	1,828	2,238	2,597
Sri Lanka	4,383	4,868	4,699	4,068	4,738	4,504	4,384	3,326	3,333	2,426	2,607
Syrian Arab Republic (Syria)	1,096	1,488	1,190	1,109	922	958	1,046	1,042	623	982	2,018
Taiwan	1,963	3,051	2,745	2,697	2,920	2,384	2,568	1,684	954	746	674
United Arab Emirates	1,289	1,315	1,326	1,045	1,323	1,335	1,991	1,689	1,440	1,577	1,184
Others	7,994	9,187	9,901	10,232	9,793	9,205	11,005	8,829	7,487	6,872	7,437
North and Central America	**9,894**	**11,920**	**13,088**	**13,843**	**14,271**	**13,006**	**13,266**	**12,544**	**13,139**	**13,191**	**13,872**
Mexico	2,249	2,830	2,836	3,227	2,833	3,092	3,819	3,574	4,005	3,956	4,440
United States	6,475	7,866	8,888	8,748	9,348	8,154	7,577	7,062	7,297	7,546	7,544
Others	1,170	1,224	1,364	1,868	2,090	1,760	1,870	1,908	1,837	1,689	1,888
Caribbean and Bermuda	**6,683**	**6,943**	**6,790**	**7,974**	**9,082**	**9,014**	**10,769**	**12,135**	**12,050**	**10,700**	**10,093**
Haiti	1,683	1,701	1,637	1,615	2,523	2,121	4,787	6,545	5,891	4,210	3,355
Jamaica	2,159	1,919	1,710	2,134	2,340	2,450	2,341	2,077	2,186	2,518	3,077
Others	2,841	3,323	3,443	4,225	4,219	4,443	3,641	3,513	3,973	3,972	3,661
South America	**12,302**	**14,074**	**13,959**	**13,251**	**12,977**	**13,356**	**12,751**	**10,582**	**9,648**	**9,139**	**9,001**
Argentina	1,548	1,085	759	564	515	460	447	301	306	308	233
Brazil	925	987	1,189	1,755	2,151	2,522	2,606	1,519	1,667	1,753	1,949
Colombia	4,598	6,442	6,553	5,382	5,456	4,677	5,242	4,696	3,928	3,643	2,912
Peru	1,463	1,663	1,485	1,502	1,108	1,889	1,294	904	790	701	743
Others	3,768	3,897	3,973	4,048	3,747	3,808	3,162	3,162	2,957	2,734	3,164
Oceania	**2,272**	**2,071**	**1,881**	**2,045**	**2,332**	**2,433**	**3,045**	**2,569**	**2,416**	**2,899**	**2,284**
Others	**13**	...	**12**	**15**	**11**	**19**	...	...	**8**	**15**	**20**
Total number of immigrants	**235,822**	**262,243**	**251,640**	**236,753**	**247,244**	**252,170**	**280,686**	**248,747**	**257,905**	**259,024**	**260,411**

1. The official name of United Kingdom is United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Notes: Data available as of September 2015. In addition to the country of birth, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada also collects data on the country of last permanent residence of immigrants.

Source: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

Table A2. Percentage of immigrants by continent and selected countries of birth, Canada, 2004 to 2014

Continent and country of birth	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
						percent					
Europe	**17.6**	**15.3**	**14.9**	**16.0**	**15.5**	**15.4**	**13.3**	**11.9**	**12.4**	**11.8**	**11.6**
Bulgaria	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
France	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.6	1.6	2.3	2.0	1.7
Germany	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.8	1.2	1.3	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.5
Republic of Ireland	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.7
Republic of Moldova	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4
Romania	2.5	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.2	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6
Russian Federation	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.8
Turkey	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3
Ukraine	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1
United Kingdom[1]	2.3	2.0	2.4	3.1	3.3	3.2	2.7	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.9
Others	5.2	4.5	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.0	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.4
Africa	**11.7**	**10.2**	**11.3**	**11.7**	**11.7**	**13.2**	**13.8**	**13.6**	**14.3**	**14.3**	**12.5**
Algeria	1.5	1.4	1.9	1.5	1.6	2.1	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.4
Cameroon	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	1.0	0.9	0.8
Côte d'Ivoire	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6
Egypt	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.9	1.7	2.0	1.5	1.1
Ethiopia	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.6
Morocco	1.6	1.1	1.3	1.7	1.7	2.2	2.2	1.8	1.5	1.3	1.0
Nigeria	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.6	1.6
Somalia	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5
Sudan	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3
The Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6
Tunisia	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Zimbabwe	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Others	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.8	4.0	3.5
Asia	**57.5**	**61.2**	**59.6**	**56.5**	**57.1**	**56.4**	**58.7**	**59.3**	**58.8**	**60.0**	**62.3**
Afghanistan	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.5
Bangladesh	1.1	1.6	1.6	1.2	1.2	0.8	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.5	0.8
China	16.2	16.8	13.8	12.1	12.6	12.1	11.3	12.0	13.4	13.7	9.9
India	11.9	13.7	13.4	12.0	11.3	11.6	11.9	10.8	11.9	12.7	14.7
Iraq	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.0	1.4	2.1	2.1	2.4	1.5	1.8	1.5
Islamic Republic of Iran	2.8	2.3	3.0	3.0	2.7	2.6	2.7	3.0	2.9	4.3	6.4
Lebanon	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.6	0.8	0.8
Nepal	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6
Pakistan	5.5	5.3	4.9	4.1	3.4	2.7	2.3	2.8	4.1	4.7	3.3
Philippines	5.9	6.9	7.3	8.3	10.0	11.3	13.6	14.7	13.2	11.3	15.3
Republic of Korea (South Korea)	2.3	2.2	2.5	2.5	3.0	2.3	2.0	1.9	2.1	1.7	1.7
Saudi Arabia	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam	0.8	0.8	1.3	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.0
Sri Lanka	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.3	1.3	0.9	1.0
Syrian Arab Republic (Syria)	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.8
Taiwan	0.8	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.3
United Arab Emirates	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5
Others	3.4	3.5	3.9	4.3	4.0	3.7	3.9	3.5	2.9	2.7	2.9
North and Central America	**4.2**	**4.5**	**5.2**	**5.8**	**5.8**	**5.2**	**4.7**	**5.0**	**5.1**	**5.1**	**5.3**
Mexico	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.7
United States	2.7	3.0	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.2	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9
Others	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7
Caribbean and Bermuda	**2.8**	**2.6**	**2.7**	**3.4**	**3.7**	**3.6**	**3.8**	**4.9**	**4.7**	**4.1**	**3.9**
Haiti	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.0	0.8	1.7	2.6	2.3	1.6	1.3
Jamaica	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.2
Others	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.4
South America	**5.2**	**5.4**	**5.5**	**5.6**	**5.2**	**5.3**	**4.5**	**4.3**	**3.7**	**3.5**	**3.5**
Argentina	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Brazil	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7
Colombia	1.9	2.5	2.6	2.3	2.2	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.5	1.4	1.1
Peru	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
Others	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.2
Oceania	**1.0**	**0.8**	**0.7**	**0.9**	**0.9**	**1.0**	**1.1**	**1.0**	**0.9**	**1.1**	**0.9**
Others	**0.0**	...	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	...	...	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Total number of immigrants	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

1. The official name of United Kingdom is United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Notes: Data available as of September 2015. In addition to the country of birth, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada also collects data on the country of last permanent residence of immigrants.

Source: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.